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* Admitted in TX only
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November 15, 2004

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/815,883
For: *SPINAL ROD CONNECTOR*
Inventors: Kalfas, Iain, *et al.*
Filed: March 31, 2004
Our Ref. No. DUQ-002 (DEP 5290)

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith for filing in the above-identified application the following:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. PTO Form SB/08; and
3. A Return Postcard.

No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, please charge any necessary fees in connection with the enclosed statement to our Deposit Order Account No. 12-0080. For this purpose, a duplicate of this sheet is attached.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

November 15, 2004

Date

Kevin J. Canning, Esq. Registration No. 35,470

Respectfully submitted,
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

Kevin J. Canning, Esq.
Registration No. 35,470
Attorney for Applicants



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re the application of: Kalfas, Iain, *et al.*

Serial No. 10/815,883

Filed: March 31, 2004

For: *SPINAL ROD CONNECTOR*

Attorney Docket No. DUQ-002 (DEP5290)

Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

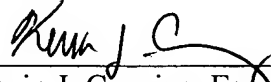
Certificate of First Class Mailing (37 CFR §1.8(a))

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November 15, 2004

Date of Signature and of Mail Deposit

By:


Kevin J. Canning, Esq.
Registration No. 35,470
Attorney for Applicants

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

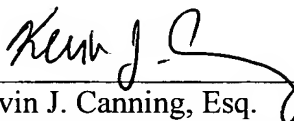
Applicants and their Attorney are aware of the following publications and information, listed on the attached PTO Form SB/08, and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97 hereby submit these publications for the Examiner's consideration. Copies of the cited U.S. patents and U.S. publications (Reference ID Nos. A1-A9) are not enclosed with this statement.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited publications are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any publication herein be construed *per se*

as a representation that such publication is prior art. Moreover, Applicants understand that the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited publications.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(3), no additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this disclosure. If, however, a first Office Action on the merits issues in this application bearing a mailing date prior to the date of this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge the appropriate fee as required under 37 CFR §1.17(p) to our Deposit Order Account No. 12-0080.

Respectfully submitted,
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP


Kevin J. Canning, Esq.
Registration No. 35,470
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Date: November 15, 2004

KJC/CMB/les
Enclosures



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/815,883
				Filing Date	March 31, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Kalfas, Iain
				Art Unit	3732
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	DUQ-002 (DEP5290)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	4,114,846	09-19-1978	Petersen	
	A2	5,053,034	10-01-1991	Olerud	
	A3	5,474,551	12-12-1995	Finn	
	A4	5,669,910	09-23-1997	Kohhonen	
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	A6	2002/0143327 A1	10-03-2002	Schluzas	
	A7	2003/0032959 A1	02-13-2003	Yeh	
	A8	2003/0153917 A1	08-14-2003	Richelsoph	
	A9	2003/0153914 A1	08-14-2003	Oribe	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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